

## REMARKS

Claims 2-14 are currently pending in the present patent application, with claims 1 and 15-24 having been cancelled.

In a final Office Action mailed 25 August April 2006, the Examiner allowed claims 2-14 but maintained his rejections of claims 15-17 over the previously cited references. More specifically, the Examiner rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0026669 A1 to Nashimoto ("Nashimoto") and rejected claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nashimoto in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,210,801 to Fournier *et al.* ("Fournier").

Claims 15-17 have been cancelled through the above claim amendments, making all pending claims, namely claims 2-14, allowed. Claims 15-17 have been cancelled merely to expedite issuance of the present application and not because these claims are considered unpatentable in view of the prior art of record. The undersigned does not agree that these claims must be viewed as product-by-process claims and identical claims may be pursued in a continuation application.

The present patent application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0130. Should the Examiner have any further questions about the application.

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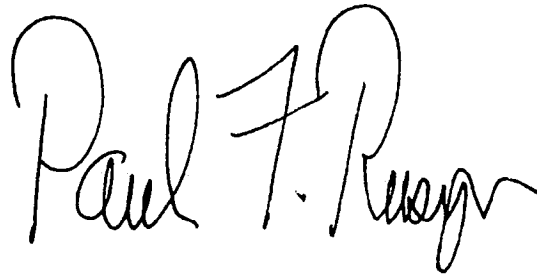
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Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney at (425) 455-5575 for a telephone interview to resolve the matter.

DATED this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,  
GRAYBEAL JACKSON HALEY LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul F. Rusyn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" being the most prominent.

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